

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Samuel Digirolamo on Oct 24, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a) on lines 2-3 of the abstract, the title of the invention "METHOD AND DEVICE FOR DETECTING DIRECTION OF MEMBER HAVING OUTER PERIPHERY FORMED IN VERTICALLY ASYMMETRICAL SHAPE" has been deleted;
- b) on line 4 of the abstract, "[0058]" has been deleted;
- c) on lines 5-8 of the abstract, "The components include, for example, disk-like, cylindrical, or annular components, more specifically engine parts having an orientation such as piston rings." has been deleted (the abstract was longer than 150 words);
*LC
11/26/08*
- d) on line 7 of claim 7, -- , wherein the top-bottom orientation of the component is identified based on a gap created between the outer peripheral part of the component and the reference block -- has been added after "reference block".

Reasons for Allowance

Claims 1-7 allowed.

As to claims 1-7 the prior of record, taken alone or in combination, fails to disclose or render obvious a method or device wherein an outer peripheral part of the